

lieving, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory :

Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

To every one of "great faith" Jesus says, as he said unto the woman of Cana "Be it unto thee even as thou wilt."

Turlock, Cal.

#### ADVERSITIES.

JENNIE M. BAUMAN.

Adversities are the battles and struggles of the human heart.

Nation after nation has had its wars and bloody battles, which we look upon with sorrow and sympathy; but to-day there are battles being fought which are greater and require more bravery than did any of the past. These battles are the conflicts of human hearts. If we could only look into the hearts of those around us, I fear we should shudder at what we might find there.

Every life has its adversities, misfortunes, or calamities. Now we ask ourselves the question, "Why is it that we must have these afflictions?" Because they are of great value to us. As a metal needs to be taken through a furnace and worked over and over to become pure, so it is necessary for us to be taken through many a fiery trial, melted and moulded, until we come out as clean and spotless characters. The Lord takes us through many a hot furnace to purify us, and make us fit vessels for his service.

Then adversities are thrown upon us to bring us to a sense of our duty. Men will reject God for years and years, and, he, seeing that all his pleadings are in vain, sends some great calamity upon them. This affliction may be the loss of all possessions, or may be the death of some idolized child or friend. Oh, it takes the hard, harsh things of life to make men what they should be, and what the Lord intended them to be!

Christ needed adversities as well as we. He could not save this world by living a life of ease and comfort. His life was a constant struggle from the time he was taken into Egypt until his death. If he so willingly and patiently endured all these sufferings for us, how uncomplainingly we should endure our trials and misfortunes for him.

Adversities teach us to appreciate what we have, even though it be but little. Fanny Crosby, that sweet hymn writer, says that the greatest blessing God has given her is the deprivation of her sight. No doubt that beautiful Christian was made to endure such a misfortune in order that her hymns might be made sweeter and her soul long for heaven and its beauties.

If it were not for the cloudy days of life, we could never know how to appreciate the bright and sunny days. What so thrills our souls and makes us feel so happy as a bright morning after a rainy and dreary day; when all nature is refreshed, and the meadow lark stands on some field post pouring out his little soul in a merry song. If we always had sunshine and song, life would become a monotonous effort.

The more our struggles here, the greater will be our joys in heaven. Earthly trials and sorrows will make heavenly joys and pleasures. Let us ever remember that though we are tossed and driven about on life's ocean by the storms of adversities, that some day the winds will be calmed, and the clouds scattered, and a day shall dawn both bright and fair, when we shall enter the haven of eternal rest.

Carleton, Nebr.

#### IS IT SO NOW?

C. H. WETHERBE.

I am sure that some of our readers can say that during the first year or two of their Christian life they took great delight in worshiping God, in communing with him, in reading his Word and in living for Christ. You were gladly willing to sacrifice time and money for him. No pleasure was as great to you as that of pleasing your Lord. Well, is it so now? Do you find as much delight in doing God's will now as you did at first? Do you love his Word as dearly now as you did then? Is it possible that your relish for divine things is less keen and less eager now than it was at the beginning? If it be so, then you must have badly abused your spiritual self. You must have shamefully neglected your privileges and great opportunities. Why, you ought to love God more now than you did at first. You ought to esteem his Word more highly now than you did in your early experience of salvation. Mr. Spurgeon, in speaking of the early experience of his Christian hearers, said: "In those days you had great delight in prayer. When alone with Christ it was heaven below; and in the prayer meetings, when God's people were warm at heart, how you delighted to unite with them! The preaching was marrow and fatness to you. You did not mind walking along way on a wet night to hear about your Lord and Master then. It may be there was no cushion to the seat, or you had to stand in the aisle. You did not mind that. You are getting wonderfully dainty now; you cannot bear the poor preacher whose voice was once like music to you. Whose fault is that? The kitchen is the same and the food the same; the appetite has gone, I fear." Is

this the case with you? I hope not. But if it be, then repent and put your whole heart into serving God.

#### THE BEST WAY TO BE USEFUL TO CHRIST.

C. H. BLACK.

When God gave man life, he also gave him character, which somehow through the process of time, has become greatly diversified; and for this reason in all of the works of man we find that our daily labor proceeds under different rules and methods, though the finished product is the same at the close of the work.

In working for Christ we find the same peculiarity manifest, we work different, though each laborer aims for the best results. So let it be: What shall we do? How shall we proceed?

God gave us the birds, He gave us the flowers, why not all birds? why not all flowers? Because birds can sing and go in lonely places where flowers cannot go, and flowers be taken where birds do not go. Which can we do without best? We all at once say that they go hand in hand, one singing God's praises, the other showing the art of the Maker's hand.

What is our first work after accepting the Savior and complying with his teachings? He does not say—but teaches us to do what our hands find to do.

Some say that they would do most for Christ if they were ministers. We should all be ministers; though we do not talk from the pulpit, let us talk from our homes.

Preaching is not all in proclaiming God's word by means of the human tongue. Much preaching is done in silence.

We are already taught to do personal service for the Master? What is there to do? Look about. Are we regular at church and other services, though we take no active part in any work, will not our God be better pleased than if we remained away? Let us go in the spirit and we will always find something to do.

Do we improve the talent delivered us? If not, why not? Surely every Christian takes Christ at his word. He tells us in the parable that each must give an account of the number of talents delivered to him; a talent here certainly means our ability to work in His vineyard.

If we cannot pray publicly as well as some other brother or sister, must we cease praying? If we cannot sing as well, must we cease singing?

If we pray to God, let us *pray*, if we sing to him, let us *sing*. God knows our hearts; man knows the outward appearance.

If we cannot sing let us talk. If we cannot talk let us read Scripture. Is there not some way that we may work? Let us scatter tracts. Young and old can do